



Avenue de Rhodanie, 54
1007, Lausanne
Switzerland
telephone: +41 21 612 02 90
facsimile: +41 21 612 02 91
www.canoeicf.com

REPORT

Olympic Solidarity Canoe Sprint Level 1 Course in Albania

By Csaba Szanto

25.11.2019

Foreword

Regarding the interest canoeing by of the Albanian NOC the ICF and ECA started corresponding o this matter followed by a personal visit by ECA President and Secretary General. As the result the Albanian NOC established the National Canoe Federation in 2017. Not much later they applied for the O.S. financial support for hosting a Technical Corse in Albania. The O.S. approved the support in 2018 but since there was not any model of racing kayak, we agreed to organize the coaches' course when they have appropriate equipment. The ICF/ECA, agreed to donate 6 racing kayaks and 10 kayak paddles to Albania using resources by the development program. This process takes a long time to find a better option to send the material. Unfortunately, the provider has some unexpected issues to solve during the delivery of the equipment. The boats arrive in Tirana, Albania on the second day of the course, nevertheless we still used the equipment during the rest of the course and didn't impact the program.

Dates of course: 18 - 23 November 2019 (6 days)

Location: Tirana Physical Education University for the theory and at the swimming pool for the practical.

Participation: 20 - 22 people attended the course. Most of them have a sport background in various sports and several have been working as instructors for different sporting activities, like tour kayaking, SUP, other water related activities, and climbing.

Participants came from four different cities.

Course Programme:

The programme had two phases, theory and practical sessions lasting 6 - 7 hours per day.

The water and weather condition was not suitable for beginner paddlers due to safety reasons, therefore we did the practical on an open swimming pool. It was more suitable regarding the logistics, technical and safety aspects. This venue gave more confidence for the attendees and provided easier progress to the audience involved on the course. At the end of the practical sessions, several people were able to sit in the kayak and paddle experimenting with technical knowledge they learnt. They could recognise better techniques to practice whilst kayaking.

Examination: 17 attendees (15 men and 2 women) took part in the examination and 11 passed.

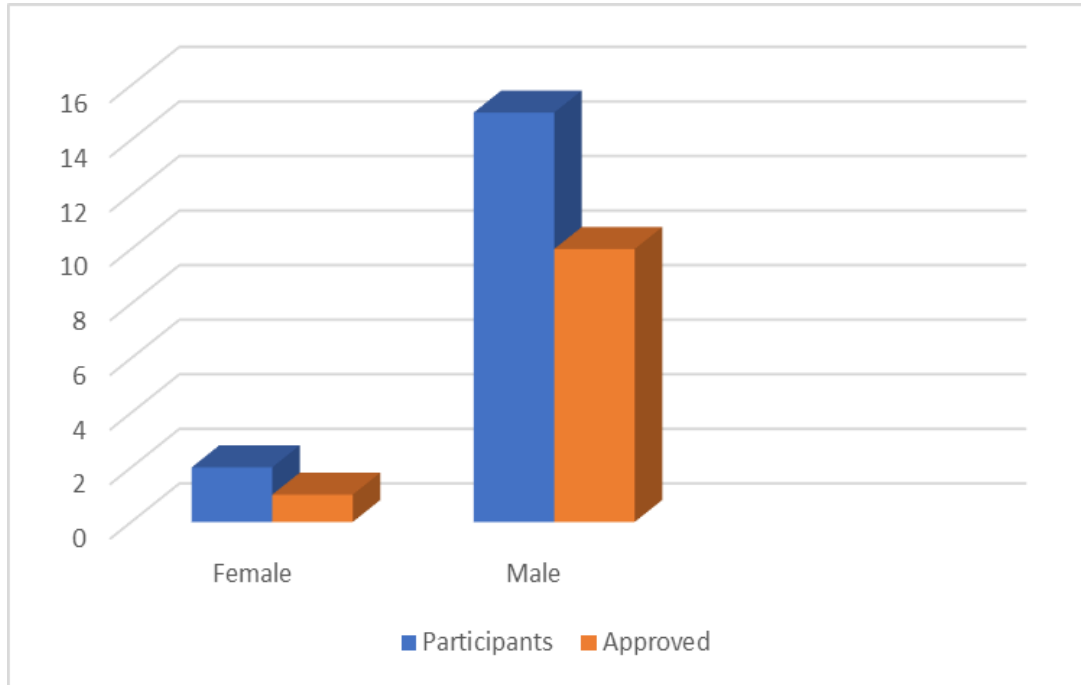
Canoe Sprint Level 1 course in Albania 2019 List of participants					
#	Name	Continent	Country Live	Gender	Fluency in
1	Adri Kasmi	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B2
2	Ardit Ajdini	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B2, Italian B2
3	Besart Muçmata	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English A2
4	Ditmar Jubica	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B1, Italian B2
5	Dorjan Tafa	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English C1, Italian B1
6	Drini Xhafa	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B2, French B1, Italian B1
7	Dritan Kolgjini	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English C1, Turkish B2, Italian A2
8	Ejona Kaltani	EUROPE	ALBANIA	female	Italian B1
9	Endrit Mertiri	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English C1, German B2, Italian B2
10	Everti Cane	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B1
11	Gjergj Bardhi	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English A2
12	Kastriot Faci	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English A2
13	Kujtim Ismailaj	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B1
14	Ledjo Hoxha	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B2, Italian B2

15	Lulzim Hyka	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B1
16	Mario Topçiu	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English C1, Italian B2
17	Mateus Shehu	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B1
18	Paola Tasho	EUROPE	ALBANIA	female	English B1
19	Taulant Guni	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B2

Canoe Sprint Level 1 course in Albania 2019
List of participants approved

#	Name	Continent	Country Live	Gender	Fluency in
1	Adri Kasmi	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B2
2	Ardit Ajdini	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B2, Italian B2
3	Ditmar Jubica	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B1, Italian B2
4	Dorjan Tafa	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English C1, Italian B1
5	Drini Xhafa	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B2, French B1, Italian B1
6	Everti Cane	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B1
7	Gjergj Bardhi	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English A2
8	Kastriot Faci	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English A2
9	Mario Topçiu	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English C1, Italian B2
10	Mateus Shehu	EUROPE	ALBANIA	male	English B1
11	Paola Tasho	EUROPE	ALBANIA	female	English B1





NOC and NF participation:

The Sec. Gen. of the NOC Albania opened and closed the course. The NOC TD organised the course, attended all the sessions, including practical. The NF' Vice-president also took part in the full course. The NF President Mr. Sokol Topciu closed the course with the Sec. Gen.

The future:

It seems that some participants and the federation are very keen to developing Canoe Sprint in Albania. It was decided to split the six boats for two places where they can start train in the new kayaks.

We visited two potential places for canoe training and competitions in Tirana. One is an artificial lake in the middle of the city, where a lot of people are jogging and cycling. We had in a meeting with the municipality to establish a place to install a canoeing base with the boats with could be used for public as well at the weekend, and this idea seems promising.



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The other place is a beautiful area with a nice lake but not very close to residential areas. It wasn't a good place for daily training just for training camps or competitions.

The development of canoeing in Albania requires further attention and support with equipment by ECA and ICF, and support to incentivise the equality of gender in the athletes and technical staff.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant Cook".

ICF Expert

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sebastian Cuatrecasas".

Development Manager